



Employee Update Covers Status of Key Center Initiatives

Marshall Center Director Dr. Wayne Littles briefed employees Thursday on a variety of current-interest topics, including the status of Project LIGHT, the initiative to involve employees in identifying and acting upon issues of importance to the Center.

During the Morris Auditorium Employee Update — also carried live on centerwide television — Littles answered a variety of questions submitted by employees. He was joined by three Center managers who made presentations about activities of special interest at the moment: ISO 9000, desktop outsourcing and Marshall's new intranet mode of information dissemination.

Littles began with a status report on Project LIGHT, the management improvement activity begun last year in which teams are focusing on particular areas and preparing reports to an overall Project LIGHT steering committee. Of the 18 teams formed when the project was launched, six have completed their work and turned final reports over to the steering committee.

Additional reports are to be delivered by the end of the month, he said.

The Project LIGHT action teams are chartered to study areas that present either problems or opportunities for the Center. Their reports to the steering committee may include recommendations for changes. The committee, chaired by Littles and including nine other Center managers, is the decision-making arm of the project.

Bob Schwinghamer, Assistant Director-Technical, provided an overview of the objectives and status of the ISO-9000 initiative, a NASA-wide effort to implement international standards for quality assurance.

Schwinghamer said Marshall's schedule for ISO-9000 implementation is ambitious — with a goal of February 1998 — but good progress is being made. A key focus to date has been on training of personnel, both to prepare Center employees for

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Black History Month Program at Marshall To Feature Child Psychologist, Musicians

Noted child psychologist Dr. Danny Blanchard, the vocal group "Connect 5," and keyboardist and songwriter Kelvin Wooten will be featured during the Marshall Center's annual Black History Month program on Friday, Feb. 28. The program, which is open to the public, will be in Morris Auditorium, Building 4200, beginning at 10 a.m.

The theme of the program is "MSFC's African Americans: Giving Back Through Community Outreach," said Joseph Hobson, Marshall's Black History Month committee chair.

"This year's program is different from the traditional type of black history programs that we have been accustomed to presenting," Hobson noted, adding that "the event will be used as a launching pad for an extended program which will focus on at-risk youth in our community."

Blanchard, the featured speaker, is director of Professional Counseling

Associates and has taught courses at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama A&M University and Florida Institute of Technology. His presentation, based on insights gained in his professional practice, will focus on ideas for creative and effective ways to work with at-risk youth in the community.

Connect 5 is a group of Oakwood College students who have toured the United States, performing for General Colin Powell, at the 1996 Olympics, and as part of the Sunfest festival with Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder, to list a few. The group also composed and performed the Oakwood College centennial jingle.

Kelvin Wooten, the son of Marshall employee Lewis Wooten, is a senior at Alabama A&M majoring in computer science and minoring in music. He has appeared on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, performing with the rhythm and blues group Tony, Toni, Tone, and is minister of music at Liberty Christian Faith Center.

Whitaker, Smith Named Lab Directors in S&E

Marshall employees Dr. Ann Whitaker and E. C. Smith have been named directors in Marshall's Science and Engineering Directorate.

Whitaker, former deputy director of the Space Sciences Laboratory, will lead the Materials and Processes Laboratory, while Smith will head the Astrionics Laboratory where he was deputy director.

The Materials and Processes Laboratory provides the Marshall Center with science, technology and engineering support in materials, processes and products to be used in space vehicle

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E. C. Smith



Ann Whitaker

Severe Weather Week Includes Statewide Tornado Drill

March begins one of the periods that poses the greatest risk for tornadoes in Alabama. To prepare for severe weather, the week of Feb 24-28 is being observed as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Alabama.

"The Marshall Center will participate in this drill by making an Emergency Warning System announcement and evacuating employees to protective areas," said Joyce Davis, Marshall's emergency preparedness officer. "These drills help us solve any problems and will benefit all of us should an actual emergency arise."

The Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency, said Davis, will take all the actions normally taken during severe weather alerts including sounding the warning sirens throughout the county at the announcement of the tornado warning.

The National Weather Service has scheduled a statewide tornado drill for today. However, if severe weather is occurring at the time, the alternate date is Friday.



Joyce Davis, Marshall's emergency preparedness officer, and BAMSI employee Dan Crock, emergency operations coordinator, prepare for the statewide tornado drill scheduled for this week.
Photo by Emmett Given

Did You Know?...

Tornadoes travel at an average speed of 30 miles an hour, but speeds ranging from stationary to 70 miles an hour have been reported. While most tornadoes move from the southwest to the northeast, their direction of travel can be erratic and may change suddenly.



Takao Doi, an astronaut with the Japanese Space Agency and mission specialist for STS-87, receives training on operating the middeck glovebox in Building 4493. Launch of STS-87 is scheduled for October and will feature the fourth flight of the Marshall-managed U.S. Microgravity Payload.

Photo by Shirley Phillips

Small Fire Extinguished on Mir

A problem with an oxygen-generating device on the Mir space station Sunday night set off fire alarms and caused minor damage to some hardware on the station. No injuries to any of the six crewmembers on board were reported. The fire was located in the Kvant 1 module.

The fire, which began at 10:35 p.m. Sunday, Moscow time, burned for about 90 seconds. The crew was exposed to heavy smoke for five to seven minutes and donned masks in response. After completing physical exams of everyone on board, U.S. astronaut Jerry Linenger, a physician, reported that all crewmembers are in good health.

S&E Lab Directors

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applications, including related ground facilities, test articles and support equipment.

The Astrionics Laboratory performs research, development and engineering analysis of electrical, guidance and control, optical and radio frequency, computer and communications, software and avionics simulation systems.

Bynum Reception Set for March 6

A retirement reception for Frank Bynum, former director of Marshall's Personnel Office, will be held on March 6 from 1-3 p.m. in Room G-13, Building 4200. Employees, retirees and on-site contractors are invited.



Kathy Forsythe, an education specialist in Marshall's Education Programs Office, demonstrates conservation of momentum to a group of students during the "Science Alliance" held last week at the North Alabama Science Center located at Calhoun Community College's Huntsville Campus. Photo by Emmett Given

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changes that will come as the program takes effect, and to create a cadre of specialists who will execute the key function of auditing Center progress in implementing ISO-9000.

Schwinghamer made an appeal for all concerned to "give it your best shot! Participation is not optional," he emphasized.

Chief Information Officer Paul Allison, focusing on "desktop outsourcing," explained that the term refers to a new way of providing the hardware and services with which employees use computers in their everyday work activities.

The current system in which desktop computing systems are bought and maintained as NASA property will transition to one in which "private industry owns and manages the resources, and we pay a fixed price based on class of service," Allison said.

Allison said this initiative, as is the case with ISO-9000, is an Agency-wide change, with Goddard Space Flight Center having the lead role. The program's timetable calls for implementation at Marshall no earlier than May of 1998, he said.

Discussing the recently activated "Inside Marshall" World Wide Web home page, Project LIGHT Intranet Team Leader Jim Ellis emphasized that this computer application is designed to be a "one-stop information shop" for all Center employees.

Ellis explained some of the key features of the medium, such as the wide range of types of information which it will provide and how users can access the service.

"It's fast, very flexible, and intuitive," Ellis said. "It is designed to be a very efficient method for providing information throughout the workforce. I even hope you'll find it fun."

Following the three special topic presentations, Littles answered a variety of questions from employees, some submitted in advance and some from members of the audience. Topics ranged from whether there will be another Holiday shutdown this year to the status of Marshall with regard to the mix of "research" and "development" work.

Marshall Holds Full-Cost Accounting Workshop

The Integrated Financial Management (IFM) Project held one of three IFM/Full Cost Accounting Workshops at the Marshall Center Feb 10-14. The Agency-wide meeting was attended by over 100 employees from centers representing IFM functional areas and included attendance by transition managers, chief information officers, chief financial officers and procurement officers.

Two days of open discussions were held in Building 4200, where overviews of the IFM Project and the Full Cost initiative were held. The following three days were used in breakout discussions to address special issues and concerns with implementation. A second IFM/Full Cost Accounting workshop will be held following contract award, and the third will be held following a final business process reengineering workshop later this year.

MMA to Offer Four Scholarships

The Marshall Management Association Merit Scholarship, an award offered by the organization to recognize academic achievement and leadership qualities of sons and daughters of Marshall (civil service) employees and retirees, will award four \$1,500 scholarships, rather than the normal two to students. Two will be offered to graduating high school seniors entering an accredited college or university in the fall of 1997, and two will be offered to freshmen who are presently enrolled in an accredited college or university during the 1996/1997 school year. (The opportunity to students who are presently college freshmen is a one-time offer and will not be made again.)

Two scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing degrees in scientific and technical areas and two will be awarded to students in the areas of business, administration, arts, education, etc. In both cases, one scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior and the other to a student completing his/her freshmen year. The association will select the scholarship recipients in May of 1997. Financial need will not be a factor. Additional information regarding the scholarships and applications is available in Room 31 of Building 4250 or by calling 544-3221. The deadline for submitting an application is April 15.

Obituaries

Garrett, Robert, 65, Rogersville, died Feb. 6. He retired from Marshall in 1988 where he worked as an aerospace engineer. He is survived by his wife Martha Garrett.

McCulloch, James, 76, Huntsville, died Feb. 4. He retired from Marshall in 1986 where he worked in the Space Telescope Project Office. He is survived by his wife Anne McCulloch.

Employee Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ Membership to Little Mountain Resort on Lake Gunterville. Cabins, campsites, boating, swimming, fishing, etc. 881-0645
- ★ Formal medium blue velveteen sofa traditional \$200. 881-9404
- ★ Magnavox 25 inch color console TV, needs minor repair \$100, antique fireplace mantle, call after 5 p.m. 830-9156
- ★ Harmon Kardon HK 3400 stereo receiver \$150. 350-7461
- ★ Five prom dresses sizes 4 and 6 worn once. Mike Benet and Alyce brand. 205-773-0194
- ★ 10" heavy duty table saw, 220V, 3HP, needs magnetic starter, Grizzly G1023 \$500 o.b.o. 539-1693
- ★ IBM AT computer with monochrome monitor \$25. SVGA color monitor 14" \$125. 464-9352
- ★ Medium pet taxi, cat litter pan w/cover, 2 stainless feeding bowls in wood stand \$15. 883-5543
- ★ Snow skis, Head 160cm, Tyrolia 180D bindings, \$90 o.b.o. 922-0958
- ★ 386 computer, color monitor, printer. Call after 6 p.m. 852-8325
- ★ Honda self-propelled lawn mower, 3.5 HP, mulching kit and bagging kit, \$135. 880-9025
- ★ Sevylor Pro Tube, boat towable, nylon denier cover, used once \$40 firm. 837-9479
- ★ 1987 Dynatrak fish & ski boat. 17.5 feet. Fully equipped. \$6,500. 734-8649
- ★ Silent flame wood burning stove, 650 CFM's, 2,800 sq. ft. rated, \$100. 355-8589
- ★ Full size sleeper sofa, teal imitation leather, \$125. Large wicker chest, glass top, \$125. 971-1414

Vehicles

- ★ 1986 Glasstream Bass-pro 170-115 Suzuki drive-on trailer with spare tire jack-plate ss prop tan/gold, \$4,500. 776-9506/4496
- ★ 1992 Aerostar extended length, XLT, 4 captain chairs, dual air, towing pkg., more \$6,900. 881-9419

- ★ 1988 Honda Accord, 4-door, automatic, power windows, locks, antenna, \$4,000. 880-9025
- ★ 1989 Suzuki sidekick 4-speed, 4WD, 1 yr. old \$3,800. 830-6655
- ★ 1989 Mercury Cougar LS, 120K miles, NADA \$3,500 o.b.o. 830-0866
- ★ 1987 Buick Somerset 2.5 L4, automatic, air, sunroof \$1,700. 353-4293
- ★ 1990 Jeep Cherokee Laredo 4x4, clean, 75K miles, NADA \$11,075, asking \$10,500 o.b.o. 851-2929
- ★ 1990 Plymouth Grand Voyager LE with rear air conditioner, \$7,900. 882-1197

Found

- ★ Wedding ring vicinity of exercise facility; identify inscription. 534-8603
- ★ Walkman radio with tape player, found in exercise room at Bldg. 4752, call 4-4758 to identify.
- ★ Silver ring with red stone, found in parking lot Bldg. 4312, call 4-4758 to identify.

Wanted

- ★ Inexpensive women's bicycle. 851-2929
- ★ Self-propelled 5 HP or greater mulching mower. 880-9025

Center Announcements

- ☛ **Redstone Arsenal & MSFC EXPO '97**— Systems & Software EXPO is scheduled for Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Redstone Officers' Club. The seminar is hosted by Information Systems Services. Free admission & refreshments. For more information call 1-800-746-0099.
- ☛ **Easter Egg Hunt Needs Volunteers** — Volunteers are needed to coordinate and assist in the annual NASA Exchange sponsored Easter Egg Hunt for dependents of Marshall employees and on-site contractors. The event is tentatively scheduled for March 16, with rain date on March 22. Workers are needed to make this event a success. Call Gena Marsh at 4-0128 to volunteer.
- ☛ **MOO Retirees** — The Management Operations Office retirees will meet for

breakfast/lunch on Feb. 27 (4th Thursday each month) at the Cracker Barrel in Madison at 10 a.m. In addition to retirees, all present or former MOO employees are welcome. If there are any questions call 539-0042.

- ☛ **Softball Club** — The Softball Club will have its first meeting March 5 at 11 a.m. in the all purpose room of 4752. All interested teams are asked to send a representative. Teams wishing to sign up must attend or contact Rhonda Pepper at 4-5432 or by cemail.
- ☛ **MARS Ballroom Dance Club** — The MARS Ballroom Dance Club will offer intermediate Merengue and Mambo lessons from 7 to 8 p.m. and beginners' Foxtrot and Tango lessons from 8 to 9 p.m. on March 3, 10, 17 and 24. Lessons are \$8 per person and classes will be held in the Parish Hall of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church at 8020 Whitesburg Dr. Lessons are available only to MARS Ballroom Dance Club members and their partners. For more information call Pat Sage at 4-5427; for a club membership application, call Linda Kinney at 4-0563.

Thank You

Karen Smallwood — The Observatory Projects Office would like to thank each of you that contributed to the memorial fund for the children of Karen Smallwood. Through your contributions, \$9,000 of bonds will be available to benefit Karen's two sons, Eric and Travis, when they reach age 18. Thanks again for your generosity.

To All My Friends at NASA — I hope all of you had as good a time at my retirement party as I did! I can't imagine a nicer way to closeout a career. It was a wonderful day--one I'll always remember. I'll remember, too, all the times we spent together, the challenges we met and the problems we solved; but most of all, I'll remember the respect and admiration we shared for one another. Thanks again! Chuck Lewis.

Morayma McKinney and Family — My family and I would like to thank all of you for your help during my illness. We appreciate your prayers, concern and generous leave donation. Thank you for being there for us.

MARSHALL STAR

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